

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A utility knife tool comprising:
- a) a handle with a distal portion;
 - b) a blade secured to and extending from said distal portion, said blade having a cutting edge;
 - c) ~~an integral blade cover for covering the cutting edge of the blade when the tool is not in use;~~
 - d) ~~a blade cover retainment member for lockedly maintaining the blade cover in a position covering the cutting edge of the blade;~~
 - e) ~~a hand operable releaser for releasing the retainment member from a locking configuration;~~
 - f) ~~a hand operable blade cover driver for moving the blade cover an exposure distance and exposing the cutting edge of the blade for use; and~~
 - g) ~~an intercept member for disengaging the blade cover driver upon blade cover movement exceeding the exposure distance and dispatching the blade cover to the locking configuration covering the cutting edge of the blade, wherein the intercept member dispatches the blade cover without continued action by a user~~
 - c) a blade cover that is biased to cover the blade, and moves between an operating position in which the blade is exposed, and a safety position in which the blade is covered; and
 - d) a manually triggered self-locking release assembly, internal to the handle, that automatically relocks the cover when retracted.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A utility knife tool as claimed in~~ The tool of Claim 1 wherein the cover retracts into the handle. handle has a generally hollow interior portion, and wherein the blade cover is generally cylindrical with a wall having a longitudinal slit through which the blade resides.
3. (Currently Amended) The utility knife of Claim 2 wherein the cover and the trigger are each biased by springs. A utility knife tool as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the releaser and driver are incorporated as a trigger assembly comprising an exteriorly accessible finger-movable trigger lever extending from the handle and in engaged communication first with the retainment member for releasing said member from the locking configuration upon initial trigger lever movement and in engaged communication second with a proximal site

~~of the blade cover for moving the blade cover said exposure distance upon continued trigger lever movement.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The utility knife of Claim 2 wherein the release assembly is actuated by a trigger located on an inferior surface of the handle. A utility knife tool as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said retainment member and said proximal site of the blade cover are disposed within the generally hollow interior portion of the handle.
5. (Currently Amended) The utility knife of Claim 2 wherein the cover retracts linearly into the handle. A utility knife tool as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the intercept member is disposed within the generally hollow interior portion of the handle.
- 6-10. Canceled.
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